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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT NEEDS IN THE MINERAL SECTOR: REGIONAL MINERAL RESOURCE ASSESSMENT PROGRAMMES

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Neculai Pavlovschi (Romania), on the basis of informal consultations

Review of regional mineral resource assessment programmes and resource needs

The Committee on Natural Resources recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its decision 1993/302 of 29 July 1993,

Bearing in mind the mandate of the Committee on Natural Resources as set out in the note by the Secretary-General on the proposed consolidated mandates of the new subsidiary bodies of the Council, 1/ especially paragraph 20 (a), (b) and (c),

Taking note of the initiatives being undertaken by the Secretary-General, and by other organizations, agencies and programmes such as the United Nations Development Programme, which are major contributors to United Nations mineral programmes, to adapt United Nations policies to the needs of sustainable development,

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1/ E/1992/76.

Mindful of the specific recommendations of Agenda 21, and in particular chapter 10, paragraphs 10.3 to 10.18 on an integrated approach to the planning and management of natural resources, 2/

Bearing in mind the fundamental importance of mineral resources to the technological advances that underpin development and the quality of life,

Noting the limitations of assessments based on identified resources in providing a long-term view of the availability of mineral resources in the context of intergenerational equity,

Recognizing existing activities of the United Nations system in the minerals field, in particular in regard to capacity-building,

Noting further the need for future United Nations programmes to be targeted to meet the challenges of sustainable development,

Recognizing also that perceived mineral resource potential is the most important single criterion for the mining industry in assessing the investment environment for exploration,

Taking into account that the most important step for the assessment of resource potential is the adequate geological definition of permissive tracts, that is, geological regions which permit the occurrence of various mineral deposit types,

Recognizing further that this information is an essential ingredient in considering wider issues of integrated land management and land use,

Affirming that the United Nations system could make a major contribution to the long-term management and sustainable development of mineral resources through developing a global knowledge base, at appropriate scales, of the potential for mineral resource exploration and development,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the valuable report of the Secretary-General on the review of regional mineral resource assessment programmes and resource needs; 3/

2/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1 (Vol. I and Vol. I/Corr.1, Vol. II, Vol. III and Vol. III/Corr.1)) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

3/ E/C.7/1994/8.

2. Recommends that the Secretary-General, within the framework of United Nations Secretariat activities in support of the Commission on Sustainable Development, prepare a plan for the integration of existing information on mineral resource potential collected by the United Nations system, other organizations and Member States, on an ongoing basis, so as to develop an understanding of global mineral resource potential;

3. Recommends that the United Nations Secretariat convene an interregional workshop to formulate a pilot project for an appropriate region, within existing budgetary resources; this project should develop standard approaches to the identification and qualitative assessment of permissive tracts and be based on Geographic Information System technology, which would allow integration with other land management information.